

**BARNSTAPLE RURAL DISTRICT**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

**OF THE**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

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**FOR THE YEAR 1972**



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PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Miss. E.M.S. Boyd  
Mrs. C.B. Burgess  
Mrs. P.J. Holland  
A.G. Ackland  
J.E. Andrew  
G.E. Andrews  
R. Bowden  
W.T.C. Buckingham  
A.J. Dennis  
R.V. Evans  
P. Friend  
D.L. Gollop  
H. Hopkins  
S.W. Hunt  
G.R. Huxtable  
H.R. Latham  
W.H. Lethaby  
W.W. Nott  
Capt. H.G. Pertwee  
F.C. Richards  
F.J. Ridd-Jones  
M.A.J. Sexon  
G.H. Staddon  
B.A.W. Stevens  
A. Swindells  
A. Wyborn  
C.G. Yeo

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FOR THE YEAR 1972

Public Health Department,  
The Civic Centre,  
Barnstaple,

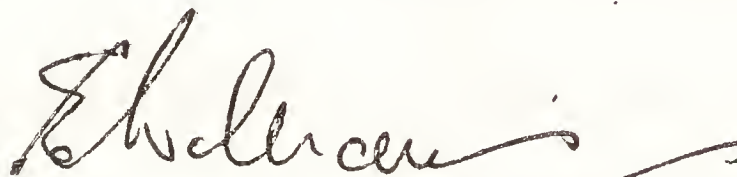
Telephone Barnstaple 72511

To the Chairman and Members  
of the Barnstaple Rural District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my report to you on the  
health and statistics of the Rural District for the year  
1972.

I am,  
Your obedient Servant,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'E. H. Allen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Medical Officer of Health



# GENERAL STATISTICS

Area of District in acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	129,346
Number of Parishes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	36
Estimated population...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	31,050
Population at 1961 census	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	25,073
Inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,878
Number of Council owned houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	872
Density of persons per house	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2.85
Rateable value...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1049,726
Estimated product of new pence rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,342

# EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

Area comparability factors	...	...	...	...	Births	1.17
					Deaths	0.76
Live births	...	...	...	...	...	416
Live birth rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	13.4
Illegitimate live births percent of total births	...	...	...	...	...	6%
Stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	3
Stillbirths rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	7
Total live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	419
Infant deaths (under one year)	...	...	...	...	...	7
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 total live births	...	...	...	...	...	17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	15
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	...	42
Neo-natal mortality rate (under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Early neo-natal mortality rate (under 1 week per 1,000 do.)	...	...	...	...	...	10
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths	...	...	...	...	...	17
Deaths	...	...	...	...	...	383
Death rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	12.3

## POPULATION

During 1972 the population of the Rural District increased by 140 to 31,050.

Births exceeded deaths by 33 and illegitimate births fell from 25 to 24.

Out of 416 live births during the year; there were 7 infant deaths, giving an infant mortality rate of 17 per 1,000 live births.

### POPULATION TRENDS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
1951 (census)	23,150	324	314
1952	23,030	342	322
1953	23,360	318	257
1954	23,410	346	296
1955	23,642	334	316
1956	24,070	343	302
1957	24,010	369	300
1958	24,370	362	276
1959	24,370	356	294
1960	25,050	365	272
1961 (census)	25,290	338	299
1962	25,580	353	336
1963	26,020	434	329
1964	26,670	428	325
1965	27,090	405	346
1966	27,560	426	390
1967	28,980	432	325
1968	28,460	429	370
1969	28,650	421	329
1970	28,870	391	388
1971	30,910	417	387
1972	31,050	<u>BIRTHS</u> 416	383

<u>Live Births:</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	211	181	392
Illegitimate	6	18	24

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217	199	416
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<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	0	0	0

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2	1	3
---	---	---

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## DEATHS

During the year there were 383 deaths (214 males and 169 females) as compared with 387 in the previous year.

### Summary of Causes of Death in 1972

	<u>Male:</u>	<u>Female:</u>
Meningococcal Infection ... ..	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc..	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus...	2	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ... ..	4	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ... ..	5	8
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus ...	19	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast ... ..	-	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus ... ..	-	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ... ..	4	-
Leukaemia ... ..	-	3
Other Malignant Neoplasms ... ..	11	6
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms ...	2	-
Diabetes Mellitus ... ..	3	4
Other Endocrine etc. Diseases ... ..	-	1
Anaemias ... ..	-	1
Other Diseases of Blood etc. ... ..	-	1
Mental Disorders ... ..	1	-
Other Diseases of Nervous System ...	3	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	1	2
Hypertensive Disease ... ..	3	-
Ischaemic Heart Disease ... ..	66	51
Other Forms of Heart Disease ... ..	6	7
Cerebrovascular Disease ... ..	21	31
Other Diseases of Circulatory System ..	18	7
Pneumonia ... ..	10	9
Bronchitis and Emphysema .. ...	7	1
Asthma .. ...	-	1
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ..	2	3
Peptic Ulcer... ..	2	2
Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	2	4
Nephritis and Nephrosis ... ..	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ... ..	3	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System .	4	-
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	1	1
Congenital Anomalies ... ..	-	2
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc. ...	3	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions ...	-	3
All other Accidents ... ..	4	4
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries ...	2	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents ... ..	2	-
	<hr/> 214	<hr/> 169



### Neo-Natal Deaths

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of four weeks:-

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	0	0	0

### Infant Mortality Rate

During the year seven infants (3 males and 4 females) died under the age of one year; giving the infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births of 17.

	<u>Males:</u>	<u>Females:</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Legitimate	3	3	6
Illegitimate	0	1	0
	3	4	7

### Deaths in Age Groups

<u>Age</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Under 4 weeks	3	1	4
4 weeks to 1 year	-	3	3
1 to 4 years	-	-	-
5 to 14 years	3	-	3
15 to 24 years	2	1	3
25 to 34 years	-	1	1
35 to 44 years	5	1	6
45 to 54 years	8	7	15
55 to 64 years	31	24	55
65 to 74 years	79	29	108
Over 75	83	102	185

## Cancer Deaths

There were seventy six deaths from cancer in 1972;  
two less than the previous year.

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Buccal Cavity etc.	1	1	2
Oesophagus	2	1	3
Stomach	4	2	6
Intestine	5	8	13
Lung, Bronchus	19	2	21
Breast	-	4	4
Uterus	-	3	3
Prostate	4	-	4
Leukaemia	-	3	3
Other	11	6	17

## Deaths from Lung Cancer

<u>Year</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1952	5	1	6
1953	5	2	7
1954	5	1	6
1955	5	-	5
1956	7	-	7
1957	8	2	10
1958	9	2	11
1959	7	2	9
1960	6	2	8
1961	9	2	11
1962	10	-	10
1963	11	2	13
1964	12	-	12
1965	12	-	12
1966	10	5	15
1967	8	6	14
1968	11	1	12
1969	11	1	12
1970	14	5	19
1971	14	2	16
1972	-	-	-

Cancer Deaths Since 1952

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Deaths</u>	<u>Cancer Deaths</u>		<u>Total</u>
		<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	
1952	322	26	29	55
1953	257	18	27	45
1954	296	20	30	50
1955	316	21	26	47
1956	302	25	30	55
1957	300	31	26	57
1958	276	21	22	43
1959	294	24	28	52
1960	272	20	21	41
1961	299	24	27	51
1962	336	34	37	71
1963	329	34	28	62
1964	325	35	27	62
1965	346	35	23	58
1966	390	36	29	65
1967	325	38	35	73
1968	370	47	37	84
1969	329	41	49	90
1970	388	42	46	88
1971	387	39	39	78
1972	383	46	30	76



## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases of notifiable infectious diseases were reported during the year:-

Infective Jaundice	...	...	...	...	3
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	8
Scarlet Fever ...	....	...	...	...	4
Whooping Cough...	...	...	...	...	2
Acute Meningitis	...	...	...	...	1

Two cases of tuberculosis (one of lung tuberculosis and one non-pulmonary) were notified in accordance with the Regulations, as follows:-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1 - 5	-	-	-	-
5 - 14	-	-	-	-
15 - 24	-	-	-	-
25 - 44	-	-	-	1
45 - 54	-	-	-	-
55 - 64	1	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-

### Lung Tuberculosis - Distribution of Cases

Braunton ... .. 1

Incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis since 1951

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Case Rate per 1,000 Population</u>	<u>No. of Deaths</u>	<u>Death Rate per 1,000 Population</u>
1951	23	0.99	7	0.30
1952	21	0.91	6	0.26
1953	24	1.03	3	0.12
1954	11	0.47	-	-
1955	4	0.17	-	-
1956	7	0.29	-	-
1957	5	0.20	1	0.04
1958	5	0.20	1	0.04
1959	4	0.16	1	0.04
1960	6	0.23	-	-
1961	5	0.20	1	0.04
1962	5	0.23	-	-
1963	2	0.075	-	-
1964	2	0.075	-	-
1965	5	0.185	1	0.04
1966	4	0.145	1	0.04
1967	4	0.143	-	-
1968	4	0.141	1	0.03
1969	3	0.105	-	-
1970	4	0.139	-	-
1971	1	0.034	1	0.03
1972	1	0.034	-	-

The following table shows the number of cases on the Rural District tuberculosis register on 1st January and 31st December, 1972.

1972	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
1st January	53	40	93	10	21	31
31st December	56	42	98	10	20	30

## GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

### IMMUNIZATION AND VACCINATION

Protective immunization and vaccination against diphtheria whooping cough, tetanus, smallpox and poliomyelitis are undertaken by the general practitioners and the Infant Welfare and School Clinics. There are four Infant Welfare Clinics organised by the Devon County Health Authority within the District held as follows:-

Fremington Parish Hall.....	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons
Braunton Parish Hall.....	Thursday afternoons
Combe Martin Health Centre.....	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons
Woolacombe Methodist Hall.....	2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons

### ISOLATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

There is an infectious diseases section at the Kingsley Hospital, Bideford which serves Barnstaple as well as other local authorities in North Devon.

### MATERNITY CASES

The North Devon District Hospital Maternity Unit at North Road, Barnstaple was opened during 1968. It has fifty four beds (forty eight general and six special care).

### SMALLPOX

All the smallpox cases in the counties of Devon and Cornwall are sent to Liskeard Smallpox Hospital, or to Lee Mill Hospital.

The Plymouth Ambulance Service (Plymouth 64101) provides transport for smallpox cases.

### NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 Section 47 and Amendment Act, 1951

This Section deals with the compulsory removal of elderly persons from their own homes to a County Welfare Home.

One case was dealt with under this Section during the year.



## THE MASS RADIOGRAPHY UNIT

The mass radiography unit visits Barnstaple fortnightly on alternate Wednesdays, between the hours of 4p.m. and 5 p.m. It is situate in the Cattle Market (Tuly Street entrance) and is available to the general public (with the exception of children under fifteen years of age and expectant mothers). It is also available for cases referred by the general practitioners in the area, thus releasing the X-ray Department at the North Devon Infirmary to cope with other important X-ray work.

## JUNIOR TRAINING CENTRE, ABBEYFIELD, BARNSTAPLE

This centre provides training facilities for mentally-handicapped children between the ages of five and sixteen years. Hostel accommodation is provided for children living some distance from the centre.

## ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, HAWLEY, BARNSTAPLE

An Adult Training Centre for the North Devon area was opened in 1966 for the training of handicapped adults. This centre also has hostel accommodation.

## HOSPITALS

The North Devon Infirmary (125 beds) situate in Barnstaple serves the area and provides modern medical and surgical treatment for the residents of the district.

Two wards ( with a total of thirty three beds) at the Alexandra Hospital, Barnstaple are set aside as an annexe to the North Devon Infirmary and post-operative and recovery patients are transferred there as soon as possible.

There are also one hundred beds set aside for the chronic sick at the Alexandra Hospital.

## AMBULANCE SERVICES

Under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act, 1946 the local health authority (i.e. the Devon County Council) are responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and the Devon County Health Committee have arranged for this to be provided through the agency of the St. John Ambulance Association. The Brigade serves the Borough and the Rural District and the headquarters are in Commercial Road, Barnstaple (Barnstaple 5321). The staff consists of four paid full-time members, twenty men volunteers and fourteen volunteer nurses.

The Hospital Car Service, also under the Devon County Council, is available upon application to the hospital by the doctor concerned and the Ambulance Service is empowered to hire cars in urgent cases when the ambulance is not necessary.

#### LABORATORIES

The Public Health Laboratory, of which Dr. B. Moore is the Director, is situated at Church Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. It is installed with the necessary equipment for bacteriological examinations of all kinds. Its diagnostic and consultative services are available for all doctors.

Bacteriological examinations of water, milk and ice-cream are also carried out there.

There is a Pathological Laboratory at 75 Boutport Street, Barnstaple with a full-time pathologist and technical staff to meet the needs of the whole of North Devon.

The blood bank is at this local laboratory.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

There are nine district nurses in the area, all of whom act as midwives.

#### CARE OF THE AGED

Wherever possible, elderly persons who are living alone are given every assistance to enable them to remain as long as possible in their own homes. They are visited by Health Visitors and in the case of ill-health by the District Nurse.

#### CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES

The V.D. Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Casualty Outpatients Department as follows:-

Males: Mondays at 5.15 p.m. and Thursdays at 5.45 p.m.  
Females: Mondays at 4 p.m. and Thursdays at 4.30 p.m.

The Chest Clinic is held at the North Devon Infirmary Glossop Annexe on Tuesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.



## HOUSING

No orders were made nor formal Undertakings accepted in respect of unfit premises.

The number of applicants on the Council's housing list at the close of 1972 was 430 as compared with 353 at the close of 1971.

During the year fifteen dwellings were completed at Church Meadow, Landkey.

The following grants were approved for the improvement of old properties.

	<u>Approved</u>	<u>Completed</u>
Improvement	151	111
Standard	10	25







